

**From:** Leonard Cecil - Music of Note  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Antitrust case

Hello!

If you've got enough money you can buy anything - including your competition. microsoft has proved this time and time again. With the current proposed settlement, Microsoft is proposing to "buy" the school market with it's \$1-billion penalty. Donate used hardware and software of it's own kind to schools (btw - is that \$1-billion market value or production value. I doubt seriously that a CD with MS-Office cost MS more than \$1 to produce, but if donated at market value will be "worth" many hundreds of dollars!) and thereby force the schools to tow the Microsoft line because they will not be able to afford other possible solution in the future without totally new money outputs. In this case MS sets itself up - as it's own punishment - a school monopoly by giving away Microsoft compatible hard- and software.

Now if Microsoft were to donate \$1-billion worth of it's competitors' hardware and software, that's more like a punishment, than the above reward they are being sentenced to for monopolistic practices.

And furthermore, since when does the convicted get to suggest his/her punishment? The bank robber? The rapist? certainly not. Not even other white-collar criminals like embezzelors and tax evaders.

But if you are big enough and rich enough, you can even buy your own punishment.

Phooey!

greetings

Leonard Cecil